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CURRENT BACKGROUND

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DECEMBER 22, 1975

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Current Background

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U.S. President Gerald R. Ford's Visit to China

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* * *

US President Gerald R. Ford Arrives in Peking

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 1, 1975)

gerald
r. ford, president of the united states of america, arrived in peking by special plane this afternoon on a visit to china at the invitation of chou en-lai, premier of the state council of the people's republic of china.

official members accompanying president ford on his visit are his wife betty ford and daughter susan ford; dr. henry a. kissinger, secretary of state; george bush, chief of the u.s. liaison office in china, and his wife; james lynn, director of the office of management and budget, and his wife; robert t. hartmann, counsellor to the president; richard b. cheney, assistant to the president; brent t. scowcroft, assistant to the president for national security affairs; joseph j. sisco, under secretary of state; ron nessen, press secretary to the president; phillip habib, assistant secretary of state for east asian and pacific affairs; and winston lord, director of the state department policy planning staff.

greeting them at the airport were teng hsiao-ping and li hsien-nien, vice-premiers of the state council; wu teh and li su-wen, vice-chairmen of the standing committee of the national people's congress; chiao kuan-hua, minister of foreign affairs; li chiang, minister of foreign trade; huang chen, chief of the liaison office of china in the united states of america; and madame lin chia-mei.

on behalf of the chinese government and premier chou en-lai, vice-premier teng hsiao-ping extended a welcome to the american guests.

peking airport today flew the national flags of china and the united states. at 3 p.m. the u.s. president's special plane touched down at the airport. a welcoming ceremony was held at the airport. the band played the national anthems of the united states and china. president ford, accompanied by vice-premier teng hsiao-ping, reviewed a guard of honour made up of men of the ground, naval and air forces of the chinese people's liberation army.

on their arrival at the guest house, president and mrs. ford were greeted by mesdames kang ke-ching and teng ying-chao.

among the more than 200 people greeting the american guests at the airport were also leading members of government departments, the peking municipal revolutionary committee and other departments concerned wang hai-jung, chu mu-chih, hsieh ching-yi, yen yu-min, liu cheng-ching, chiang hui-lien, lu chin-tung, liu hua-ching,

liu tsun-hsin, teng kang, wang yeh-chiu, liu chuan-hsin, chang han-chih, chu lin, lin ping, chin chia-lin and chu chuan-hsien as well as personages of various circles who had visited the united states.

present were also george bush, chief of the u.s. liaison office in china, and mrs. bush; officials of the liaison office; and members of the u.s. advance party.

NPC Chairman Chu Teh Meets President Gerald
R. Ford and Mrs. Betty Ford

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 1, 1975)

chu teh, chairman of the standing committee of the national people's congress, met here this evening with gerald r. ford, president of the united states of america, and mrs. betty ford as well as all the american guests, the press corps, technical personnel and aircraft crew who are accompanying the president on his visit.

present on the occasion were chinese leaders teng hsiao-ping, chiang ching, li hsien-nien, wu teh and li su-wen; minister of foreign affairs chiao kuan-hua, minister of foreign trade li chiang, minister of culture yu hui-yung, chief of the liaison office of china in the united states of america huang chen, and others.

among those present on the american side were susan ford, daughter of president ford; dr. henry a. kissinger, secretary of state; and george bush, chief of the liaison office of the united states of america in china, and mrs. bush.

hosts and guests were photographed together.

Entrusted by Premier Chou En-lai, Vice Premier
Teng Hsiao-ping Hosts Banquet in Honor of
US President Ford and Mrs. Ford

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 1, 1975)

entrusted by premier
chou en-lai, teng hsiao-ping, vice-premier of the state council, hosted a banquet here this evening in honour of gerald r. ford, president of the united states of america, and mrs. betty ford.

among the american guests present at the banquet were susan ford, daughter of president ford, henry a. kissinger, secretary of state, george bush, chief of the u.s. liaison office in china, and mrs. bush, other official members and members of president ford's party, the press corps, the technical personnel and the aircraft crew accompanying president ford on his visit, and officials of the u.s. liaison office in china.

present were li hsien-nien, vice-premier of the state council, wu teh and li su-wen, vice-chairmen of the standing committee of the national people's congress, chiao kuan-hua, minister of foreign affairs, li chiang, minister of foreign trade, yu hui-yung, minister of culture, huang chen, chief of the liaison office of china in the u.s., and madame lin chia-mei.

the banquet was held in the great hall of the people. the national flags of the u.s. and china were hung side by side in the banquet hall.

vice-premier teng hsiao-ping and president ford delivered toasts at the banquet. after their toasts, the band played the national anthems of the united states and china. in the course of the banquet, the band played chinese and american music.

present at the banquet were:

members of the standing committee of the national people's congress chang wen-yu, wu hsin-yu, lin chiao-chih, chao chung-yao and tung ti-chou;

leading members of government departments and the peking municipal revolutionary committee wang hai-jung, chu mu-chih, hsieh ching-yi, yen yu-min, hsiao peng, liu cheng-ching, chiang hui-lien, lu chin-tung, liu hua-ching, liu tsun-hsin, wang yeh-chiu, lu ying, teng kang, mu ching, wu chung, liu chuan-hsin, chang han-chih and chu lin; and

representatives of workers and people's commune members chen fu-han, chen ching-tai, tu pao-jung, chen yung-hsiang, kuo li-yun and kuo fu-chin, representatives of minority nationalities yang tsung, halifu tawuti, chen chia-tsai, chen yu-fang and tien chung-shan, as well as representatives of various circles.

present were also tu yu-ming, huang wei, chang hai-shang, chao yi-hsueh and yang nan-tsun.

Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping's Toast at
Banquet in Honor of President Ford

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 1, 1975)

following
is the text of vice-premier teng hsiao-ping's toast
at the banquet in honour of u.s. president gerald
r. ford here this evening:

mr. president and mrs. ford,
ladies and gentlemen,
comrades and friends,

we are very glad today that president and mrs. ford,
travelling thousands of miles across the ocean, have
arrived in china for an official visit. as the republican
leader of the house of representatives, mr. ford visited
china before in june 1972 with mrs. ford, so they are
already known to the chinese people. at this banquet
which i am entrusted by premier chou en-lai to host, i
wish to express welcome on behalf of the chinese government
to president and mrs. ford and the other american guests
accompanying them on the visit.

the chinese and american peoples are both great
peoples. our two peoples have always been friendly
to each other. i would like to take this opportunity
to convey the cordial greetings of the chinese people
to the great american people.

more than three years ago, president nixon visited
china, and the chinese and american sides issued the
famous shanghai communique. this is a unique international
document. it explicitly sets forth the fundamental
differences between the policies of china and the united
states, which are determined by their different social
systems, and at the same time points out that in today's
world our two countries have many points in common.
an outstanding common point is that neither should seek
hegemony and that each is opposed to efforts by any other
country or group of countries to establish hegemony.
the communique provides the basis for the development
of sino-u.s. relations and indicates its direction and
goal. its issuance accords not only with the common
desire of our two peoples but also with the interests
of the people of the world. and it has made a deep
impact internationally.

since the shanghai communique, there have been on
the whole an increase in the contacts and friendship
between our two peoples and an improvement in the
relations between our two countries. since he took
office, president ford has stated more than once that he
will adhere to the principles of the shanghai communique
and work to promote sino-u.s. relations, a statement which
we welcome. to realize the normalization of relations
between our two countries conforms to the common desire of
the chinese and american peoples. we believe that, so
long as the principles of the shanghai communique are

earnestly observed, this desire will eventually be realized through the joint efforts of our two sides.

at present, a more important question confronts the chinese and american peoples -- that of the international situation. our basic view is: there is great disorder under heaven and the situation is excellent. the basic contradictions in the world are sharpening daily. the factors for both revolution and war are clearly increasing. countries want independence, nations want liberation, and the people want revolution -- this torrential tide of our time is mounting. in particular, the third world has emerged and grown in strength, and has become a force that is playing an important role in the international arena, a force that must not be neglected. on the other hand, the contention for world hegemony is intensifying and, strategically, europe is the focus of this contention. such continued contention is bound to lead to a new world war. this is independent of man's will. today it is the country which most zealously preaches peace that is the most dangerous source of war. rhetoric about "detente" cannot cover up the stark reality of the growing danger of war.

the wind sweeping through the tower heralds a rising storm in the mountains. the wind is blowing harder and harder, and nothing can prevent the storm. in the face of this international situation, the crucial point is what line and policy to pursue. we consider that it is in the interest of the people of the world to point out the source and danger of the war, dispel illusions of peace, fully arouse the people, make all preparations, unite with all the forces that can be united with and wage a tit-for-tat struggle. hegemonism is not to be afraid of. it is weak by nature. it bullies the soft and fears the tough. its expansion in all parts of the world bears the seed of defeat. the outcome of a war is decided by the people, not by one or two new types of weapon. in this regard, the consistent policy of the chinese government and people is: dig tunnels deep, store grain everywhere and never seek hegemony. we base ourselves on independence, self-reliance and millet plus rifles.

the people are the makers of history. mankind always advances in storm and stress. the road is tortuous, the future is bright. we are full of optimism and confidence in the future of mankind.

president ford's visit to china is a major event in the present international relations. it is beneficial for leaders of the two countries to have a direct exchange of views on issues of mutual interest. we wish president ford a successful visit.

in conclusion, i propose a toast
to the friendship between the chinese and american peoples,
to the health of president and mrs. ford,
to the health of the other american guests, and
to the health of all comrades and friends present
here excl.

President Ford's Toast at Banquet in His
Honor

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 1, 1975)

following is the text of u.s. president gerald r. ford's toast at the banquet in his honour here this evening:

mr. vice-premier, mr. foreign minister, and all chinese friends here tonight:

on behalf of mrs. ford, our daughter susan, the members of our party, and the people of the united states of america, let me express appreciation for your friendly reception. it is symbolized by this gracious banquet you have accorded us tonight.

although this is my second visit to the people's republic of china, it is the first time i have been to your country as president of the united states. in 1972 i had the opportunity to meet a number of your leaders, including premier chou en-lai. i learned something of their views, and saw the impressive work of the people of china in developing their country. i recall your hospitality with pleasure.

it is now more than four years since our two countries started discussing how to build a more constructive relationship. reality and common necessities brought us together in a bold and farsighted move.

in the shanghai communique our two governments recognized that "there are essential differences between china and the united states in their social systems and foreign policies." but, more importantly, we also agreed that normalization of relations would be in the mutual interest of our peoples, and would contribute to the development of a more secure international order. we therefore established certain principles to guide the growth of our relations and our approach to the international scene.

the moves that were taken in 1971 and 1972 by the leaders of china and the united states were of historic significance. i take this occasion to reaffirm my commitment to the objectives and the principles that emerged from those first steps and specifically to the normalization of our relations.

developments since 1972 verify the wisdom of the shanghai communique. we still differ on certain issues, but we have progressed toward a more normal relationship. our many authoritative discussions have enabled our two nations to explore areas of mutual interest and to understand each other's views on the issues on which we disagree. the two liaison offices which we established in our respective capitals facilitate our contact and understanding. the development of cultural and scientific exchanges, and trade, strengthens the ties between the chinese and american peoples.

in the international field, we have a mutual interest in seeing that the world is not dominated by military force or pressure -- what in our joint statements we have called hegemony.

in pursuing our objectives, each of us will, of course, determine our policies and methods according to our differing positions in the world and our perceptions of our respective national interests.

in the past four years, there have been many changes in the international situation. the world confronts us all with dangers, but it also offers opportunities. the united states will strive both to reduce the dangers and to explore new opportunities for peace without illusions. the current situation requires strength, vigilance, and firmness. but we will also continue our efforts to achieve a more peaceful world even as we remain determined to resist any actions that threaten the independence and well-being of others.

i look forward to our frank and beneficial discussions. we will explore areas of agreement, and seek to foster understanding where our perspectives differ. in that spirit, we remain firmly committed to the process of building a normal relationship between our two countries on the basis of the shanghai communique, and to enlarging the areas of cooperation on international issues of mutual concern.

so as i begin my visit, i would like to propose a toast:

- to the health of chairman mao;
- to the health of premier chou en-lai;
- to the health of vice-premier teng hsiao-ping;
- to the health of other officials and friends here tonight;
- to the success of our discussions here this week;
- and to further development of friendship and understanding between the peoples of china and the united states.

Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping Holds Talks with
President Ford

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 2, 1975)

chinese vice-
premier t'eng hsiao-ping and u.s. president gerald r.
ford held talks here this morning.

taking part in the talks on the u.s. side were dr.
henry a. kissinger, secretary of state; george bush,
chief of the u.s. liaison office in china; brent t. scowcroft,
assistant to the president for national security affairs;
phillip habib, assistant secretary of state for east asian
and pacific affairs; winston lord, director of the state
department policy planning staff; and richard solomon,
senior staff member on the national security council.

taking part in the talks on the chinese side were
chiao kuan-hua, foreign minister; huang chen, chief of
the liaison office of china in the united states; wang hai-
jung, vice-foreign minister; lin ping, director, and tang
wen-sheng, deputy director, of the department of american
and oceanian affairs of the foreign ministry; and chien
ta-yung, ting yuan-hung and chao chi-hua.

Chairman Mao Tsetung Meets US President Gerald
R. Ford, Mrs. Ford and Other American Guests

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 2, 1975)

chairman
mao tsetung this afternoon met with president gerald
r. ford of the united states of america, mrs. betty
ford and members of president ford's party.

the members of president ford's party who took part
in the meeting were susan ford, daughter of the
president; dr. henry a. kissinger, secretary of state;
george bush, chief of the u.s. liaison office in china;
brent t. scowcroft, assistant to the president for
national security affairs; joseph j. sisco, under-
secretary of state; phillip habib, assistant secretary
of state for east asian and pacific affairs; winston
lord, director of the state department policy planning
staff; and richard solomon, senior staff member on the
national security council.

after shaking hands with each of the american guests,
chairman mao had earnest and significant discussions
with president ford on wide-ranging issues in a friendly

atmosphere. taking part in the discussions on the american side were henry a. kissinger, george bush, brent t. scowcroft and winston lord.

taking part in the meeting and discussions on the chinese side were teng hsiao-ping and li hsien-nien, vice-premiers; chiao kuan-hua, foreign minister; huang chen, chief of the liaison office of china in the united states; wang hai-jung, vice-foreign minister; and tang wen-sheng and chang han-chih, deputy department directors of the foreign ministry.

President and Mrs. Ford Tour Temple of Heaven

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 2, 1975)

u.s. president gerald r. ford and his wife and other american guests accompanying them on the visit toured the temple of heaven here this afternoon in the company of chinese vice-premier li hsien-nien and his wife lin chia-mei.

US President Gerald R. Ford and Mrs. Ford Attend Performance of Modern Revolutionary Dance Drama in Peking

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 2, 1975)

u.s. president gerald r. ford and mrs. ford attended a performance of the modern revolutionary dance drama "ode to yimeng" here this evening.

other american guests attending the soiree were susan ford, daughter of the u.s. president, dr. henry a. kissinger, secretary of state, george bush, chief of the u.s. liaison office in china, and mrs. bush, and other members of president ford's party.

accompanying the american guests at the soiree were li hsien-nien, vice-premier of the state council, and his wife lin chia-mei, wu teh, vice-chairman of the

standing committee of the national people's congress, chiao kuan-hua, minister of foreign affairs, yu hui-yung, minister of culture, and huang chen, chief of the liaison office of china in the united states, and his wife chu lin.

Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping Continues Talks
with President Ford

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 3, 1975)

chinese vice-
premier teng hsiao-ping and u.s. president gerald r.
ford continued talks here this morning.

President and Mrs. Ford in Peking

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 3, 1975)

u.s. president
gerald r. ford visited the exhibition on learning from
taiwan in agriculture here this afternoon in the company
of li su-wen, vice-chairman of the standing committee of the
national people's congress.

george bush, chief of the u.s. liaison office in
china, also visited the exhibition.

accompanying them were hsiao peng, chinese vice-
minister of agriculture and forestry, and huang chen,
chief of the liaison office of china in the united
states.

mrs. betty ford visited the palace museum this morning
in the company of n.p.c. vice-chairman li su-wen. she
visited the dance school of the central "may 7" arts
university this afternoon in the company of wang man-
tien, leading member of the chinese ministry of culture.

over the past few days, members of president ford's
party visited in separate groups the hunghsing (red
star) people's commune and the national photographic
exhibition, and toured the great wall and the summer
palace.

US President Gerald R. Ford and Mrs. Ford
Attend Sports Exhibition

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 3, 1975)

president
gerald r. ford of the united states and mrs. betty ford
attended an exhibition of gymnastics, traditional chinese
boxing and sword play (wushu), and table tennis at the
capital indoor stadium here this evening.

attending the sports exhibition were also dr. henry
a. kissinger, secretary of state, george bush, chief
of the u.s. liaison office in china, and mrs. bush, as
well as other members of president ford's party.

accompanying the american guests at the exhibition
were teng hsiao-ping, vice-premier of the state council,
li su-wen, vice-chairman of the standing committee of
the national people's congress, chiao kuan-hua, minister
of foreign affairs, huang chen, chief of the liaison
office of china in the united states, and chuang tse-tung,
minister in charge of the physical culture and sports
commission.

present were people of various circles in the chinese
capital.

Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping Continues Talks
with President Gerald R. Ford

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 4, 1975)

chinese
vice-premier teng hsiao-ping and u.s. president gerald
r. ford continued talks here this morning.

US President Ford, Mrs. Ford and Other
American Guests See Sights in Peking

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 4, 1975)

President Gerald R. Ford of the United States toured the Summer Palace here this afternoon in the company of Li Hsien-nien, vice-premier of the State Council.

Mrs. Betty Ford, wife of the president, and Susan Ford, daughter of the president, visited the Peking No. 1 Carpet Factory this morning in the company of Madame Lin Chia-mei, wife of vice-premier Li Hsien-nien. Susan Ford witnessed an operation performed under acupunctural anaesthesia at the No. 3 Hospital of the Peking Medical College.

US President and Mrs. Ford Give Farewell Banquet

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 4, 1975)

President Gerald R. Ford of the United States of America and Mrs. Betty Ford gave a farewell banquet in the Great Hall of the People here this evening.

Among the guests at the banquet were Teng Hsiao-ping and Li Hsien-nien, vice-premiers of the State Council; Chen and Li Su-wen, vice-chairmen of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Chiao Kuan-hua, minister of foreign affairs; Li Chiang, minister of foreign trade; Yu Hui-yung, minister of culture; Huang Chen, chief of the Liaison Office of China in the United States; and Madame Lin Chia-mei.

Present were Susan Ford, daughter of the president; Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, secretary of state; George Bush, chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in China, Mrs. Bush; and others.

The national flags of China and the United States hung side by side in the banquet hall.

President Ford and vice-premier Teng Hsiao-ping delivered toasts at the banquet. Their toasts were followed by the band playing the national anthems of China and the United States. In the course of the banquet, the band played music pieces of the two countries.

Also present at the banquet were:

members of the n.p.c. standing committee chang wen-yu, wu hsin-yu, lin chiao-chih, chao chung-yao and tung ti-chou;

Leading members of government departments, the peking municipal revolutionary committee, and other departments concerned, including wang hai-jung, chu mu-chih, hsieh ching-yi, yen yu-min, hsiao peng, liu cheng-ching, wang man-tien, Chiang hui-lien, lu chin-tung, liu hua-ching, liu tsun-hsin, wang yeh-chiu, lu ying, teng kang, mu ching, wu chung, liu chuan-hsin, chang han-chih and chu lin; and

representatives of workers and people's commune members in the chinese capital chen fu-han, chen ching-tai, tu pao-jung, chen yung-hsiang, kuo li-yun and kuo fu-chin; representatives of minority nationalities yang tsung, halifu tawuti, chen chia-tsai, chen yu-fang and tien chung-shan; as well as representatives of various circles.

present were also tu yu-ming, huang wei, chang hai-shang, chao yi-hsueh and yang nan-tsun.

President Ford's Toast at Farewell Banquet

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 4, 1975)

following
is the text of the toast by u.s. president gerald r. ford at the farewell banquet he gave here this evening:

mr. vice-premier, mr. foreign minister, and all chinese friends here tonight.

on behalf of mrs. ford and all the americans present, i extend to you a warm welcome.

tomorrow morning we leave china. it has been a significant visit.

the wide-ranging talks which i have held with chairman mao and with vice-premier teng have been friendly, candid, substantial and constructive. we discussed our differences, which are natural in a relationship between two countries whose ideologies, societies, and circumstances diverge. but we also confirmed that we have important common points.

we reviewed our bilateral relationship. the visit confirmed that although our relations are not yet normalized, they are good; they will be gradually improved because we both believe that a strengthening of our ties benefits our two peoples. i am confident that through our mutual

efforts we can continue to build a relationship which advances the national interests of the united states and the people's republic of china. in our talks, i reaffirmed that the united states is committed to complete the normalization of relations with the people's republic of china on the basis of the shanghai communique.

our bilateral ties are important. but both of us attach even greater significance to the international aspects of our relationship. it was certain common perceptions and common interests which brought our countries together four years ago. among these is our agreement not to seek hegemony over others and our fundamental opposition to the efforts of others to impose hegemony in any part of the world. this reflects the realism which is a hallmark of our relationship. and realism is a firmer basis than sentiment for sound and durable ties.

it is only natural that the people's republic of china and the united states will follow their own policies and tactics, governed by their perceptions of their own national interests. the united states is firmly dedicated to an international order of peace, justice and prosperity for all. the task which confronts us -- which confronts all peoples of the world -- is not easy. it requires both firmness of principle and tactics adapted to particular circumstances. it requires national strength and the will to use it, as well as prudence to avoid unnecessary conflict. it requires acceptance of peaceful change to accommodate human aspirations for progress. all must help to build a durable and equitable international system, though inevitably contributions will often be diverse.

i believe that our discussions this week have significantly promoted those objectives we share concerning both our bilateral relations and the international scene. they will benefit our two peoples as well as the peoples of the world.

in closing, i wish to express the sincere appreciation of mrs. ford and myself, and those traveling with us, for the warm hospitality we have received. mr. vice-premier, i hope that you will convey my personal thanks to all who have helped to make our visit so pleasurable.

i ask you to join me in a toast:

- to the health of chairman mao;
- to the health of premier chou en-lai;
- to the health of vice-premier teng hsiao-ping;
- to the health of all chinese friends here tonight;
- to the friendship between the american and chinese people.

Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping's Toast at
Farewell Banquet Given by President Ford

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 4, 1975)

following
is the text of chinese vice-premier teng hsiao-ping's
toast at the farewell banquet given by u.s. president gerald
r. ford here this evening:

mr. president and mrs. ford,
mr. secretary of state,
ladies and gentlemen,
comrades and friends,

president ford will conclude his visit to china
tomorrow. here, on behalf of my chinese colleagues
present, i would like to thank president ford for giving
this banquet on the eve of his departure.

in the last few days, our two sides have held
several beneficial talks on matters of mutual interest.
what is particularly important, chairman mao tsetung had
an earnest and significant conversation with president
ford on wide-ranging issues in a friendly atmosphere.
china and the united states have different social systems,
our two sides have different ideologies, and naturally
there are differences of principle between us. at the
same time, in the present international situation, our
two countries face problems of mutual concern and share
many common points. the direct exchange of views between
the leaders of our two countries on this occasion helps
to increase mutual understanding and serves to promote
efforts by both the chinese and american sides toward
the direction and goal defined in the shanghai communique.
both sides agree that the shanghai communique is a
document of historic significance and constitutes the
basis of sino-u.s. relations. as facts prove, it remains
full of vitality today.

president and mrs. ford and their party have also
visited places of interest in peking and come into con-
tact with people of various circles in our capital. our
american guests must have found that the chinese people
are friendly to the american people. on the eve of the
departure of president and mrs. ford from china, i would
like to take this opportunity to convey the best wishes
of the chinese people for the american people.

i wish president and mrs. ford and their party a
pleasant journey.

in conclusion, i propose a toast

to the friendship between the chinese and american
peoples,

to the health of president and mrs. ford,

to the health of the other american guests, and

to the health of our comrades and friends present excl.

President and Mrs. Ford Leave Peking

(NCNA-English Peking, Dec. 5, 1975)

gerald r. ford, president of the united states of america, left here by special plane this morning at the end of his visit to china.

mrs. betty ford, daughter of the president susan ford, secretary of state dr. henry a. kissinger and other members accompanying president ford on his visit also left here today.

seeing them off at the airport were teng hsiao-ping and li hsien-nien, vice-premiers of the state council; wu teh and li su-wen, vice-chairmen of the standing committee of the national people's congress; chiao kuan-hua, minister of foreign affairs; li chiang, minister of foreign trade; huang chen, chief of the liaison office of china in the united states; and madame lin chia-meí.

a send-off ceremony was held at the airport which flew the national flags of the united states and china. a band played the national anthems of the united states and china. president ford, accompanied by vice-premier teng hsiao-ping, reviewed a guard of honour made up of men of the ground, naval and air forces of the chinese people's liberation army.

among the more than 200 people seeing them off at the airport were also leading members of government departments, the peking municipal revolutionary committee and other departments concerned, including wang hai-jung, chu mu-chih, hsieh ching-yí, yen yu-min, liu cheng-ching, wang man-tien, chiang hui-lien, lu chin-tung, liu hua-ching, liu tsun-hsin, teng kang, wang yeh-chiu, liu chuan-hsin, chang han-chih, chu lin, lin ping, chin chia-lin and chu chuan-hsien, as well as personages of various circles who had visited the united states.

present were george bush, chief of the u.s. liaison office in china, and mrs. bush and officials of the liaison office.

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